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New Life



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Chapter 1 by Enrique_the_gr8

A large boat sat in a crowded harbor. People were all bustling here and there to see what goods the merchants were selling. One box stands out from the others. Being loaded off a large boat is a large box. Roughly the size of a cannon. It takes some of the strongest sailors to unload it. Once it is set down a man approaches. He has a large crowbar, he wedges it under the top and with a forceful blow, the lid comes off. As surprise runs across the men's faces a man runs across the street. Out of the box comes Erakai. He is finally free. He escaped the iron fist of his previous life. He was a poor man but now he's free. Shouting echoes throughout the harbor as people attempt to stop the troublemaker.

Chapter 2 by Kiri



So this is what freedom smelled like. So many unfamiliar smells rushed through his nose. Street vendors, sewers, rain. They all smelled marvelous to him. The sea breeze rippled through his jet-black hair as he skittered through the streets. There would be plenty of time for him to explore later, assuming he doesn't get caught. *Gotta get out of the spotlight*, thought the fugitive as he slipped through the crowd like a snake in the rainforest. *Gotta hide...but where?* The man had never had the opportunity to have his plan get this far, so he didn't really know what to do. He

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Chapter 3 by Nova the Kid



It wasn't possible. The one familiar face in the crowd threw Erakai's plan for a loop. Her skin was caked in wrinkles and had been slapped by the mark of time. Ten years appeared to be more like 30. Time had not treated Mrs. Wong well, but even through her ruined complexion and extra layer of fat Erakai could tell it was his neighbor. She was a maternal figure to him when his real mother left his house just three years after his birth. She was the first to visit him in prison and knew how long his sentence was, counting the days in the center of her heart. If she laid her eyes on him, she would know he was about fifteen years too early. Erakai's heart sank. Mrs. Wong loved him like her own son, but she was disappointed enough in his actions that she wouldn't hesitate to turn him into the police for a second. Erakai knew he should have forgotten the ship and taken the train to another bordering country. Mrs. Wong received a wrapped loaf of bread from one of the vendors and began to walk. Why was she so far from home? Erakai was too deep in thought to realize just where his mentor was heading.

"Erakai," she breathed, "You need to leave right now."

Chapter 4 by Alexander



Erakai tried to call after Mrs. Wong to ask her why he had to leave but, she just kept on walking as nothing ever happened. Just as Erakai was about to chase after her she dropped a small piece of paper. Instead of chasing after her, he picked up the small slip of paper and read what was on it,

"Meet me at 517 Watterson St. at 11 PM sharp." Erakai read to himself in the crowd of people.

"Why would she want me to meet her at my old house?" He thought to himself. Erakai slipped the paper into the only pocket that wasn't shredded and tried to push his way through the crowd. As he bumped into people he began to hear shouts from the sailors who brought him here.

"STOP THAT MAN!!!" Shouted one of the sailors.

Erakai tried to hide his face and tried to push through the crowd faster until he felt a large hand pull him back. He turned around to see a woman with short brown hair and a determined look on her face.

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Because the fall semester is over, the school year has come to an end. The students are finally able to break the grasp of the cold weather and are looking forward to the summer months ahead.

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The men lifted Erakai onto his feet and began to taunt him, "So we have a runner now? You do realize that will just keep you in prison even longer, right? You must be really stupid to try and run." This comment caused a few of the men to snicker. Erakai spit up some blood and then stated, "Not as stupid as a worthless sailor. At least I don't devote my life to taking another man's orders." Erakai grinned just as the sailor punched him in the side of the head, causing him to black out completely.

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